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connection

We have just passed the summer solstice – a kind of dividing line in our calendar as the longest day. At AAUW, we are also at a dividing line between current and future administrations at the branch and state level. This provides us with an opportunity to review our goals and accomplishments and to refresh or renew them or to revise our goals going forward. At the state level, there will be a new board of directors. Some of the current members of the board will continue in their roles and others will leave, so that others can participate in state leadership.

As I leave, I want to acknowledge the members who have worked with me over the last two years. **Peg Gallagher** and **Becky Glimco** organized two very successful state conventions. They spent many hours finding excellent venues, provided interesting speakers and programs, and made sure every attendee was taken care of and supported. **Paula Purdue** and **Tracy Sherman-Falcon** have guided Public Policy and mentored and coached branch Public Policy chairs in trying times for women's rights. They have kept us informed about state and national legislation and have kept up the pressure to certify the Equal Rights Amendment. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to all four of these leaders, who will be stepping down from their board positions.

Some unsung heroines are **Leslie Sulla**, webmaster, and **Jennifer Urish**, Communications guru, who edits Connection and our Convention booklet. They are behind the scenes making sure we all have the information we need to perform as branches. **Kate Skegg**, has managed Social Media and kept branch

board members.

Sue Topp, as District Director, has provided regular updates to branches and especially branch Presidents and made sure that information from national was passed on for action.

Ruth Holst, Finance Director, and **Danielle Byron**, and **Lori Switzer**, VPs of Membership, will continue their support for branches at the state level. They have all provided guidance and mentoring through Affinity group meetings for branch officers and kept us in good standing.

Thanks also go out to **Andi Danis**, Director of Bylaws and Policy, for her guidance through several rounds of Bylaws updates; **Carol Heisler**, acting Secretary and Nominating Committee Chair, for the excellent slate of candidates who were installed as the new officers at the state convention in April, and to **Laura Desmarais**, who as Funds Director has made sure your contributions to AAUW have been acknowledged and recorded. Each of these women will take on new roles on the state board.

Thanks also go out to all the branch officers who have served in a variety of capacities and took on the responsibilities of leadership. You are much appreciated. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with all of the women on the state board. I know that though the future may be challenging, the members of the board will be up to those challenges and will represent your interests in the best way possible.

I had the privilege of visiting many branches and celebrating many significant anniversaries. I was struck by the variety of community activities that branches have contributed over the years and by the energy and enthusiasm that so many women brought to AAUW. We are indeed a very special organization – from our support of scholarships, NCCWSL, legislation, Title IX, ERA, pay and gender equity, and the myriad other needs which we saw in our communities and addressed through our branch work.

Wishing each and every one of you blessings, health, happiness and success in all you do.

In gratitude, Donna Jean

If your branch has a program or recognition or an idea you'd like to share, please [email Jennifer Urish](#) by the 14th of each month.

Our Mission: Gender Equity & Economic Security
Our Values: Intersectionality Inclusive Intergenerational Empowering
Our Focus: Economic Security Education Advocacy



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